



CALPEEK

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ELECTION ANALYSIS

Editor's note: Here is Part I of Calpeek's post-Nov. 3rd election analysis. Keep in mind there are still large numbers of absentee ballots yet to be counted, so some of the results could change over the next several days. Next week: **Calpeek's Winners & Losers**. So consultants who love to spin, fax or e-mail us pronto...

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

...Calpeek sources were on target by catching a shift in *momentum* from the GOP to the Demos just prior to the Nov. 3rd election. In what will be remembered as the off-year election reversal, the party controlling the White House (the Demos) didn't lose any U.S. Senate seats and in fact picked up 5 U.S. House seats. The week prior to the election, House Speaker Newt Gingrich boosted that the GOP would pick up between 10-40 seats. So it's no wonder President Bill Clinton, despite all his problems arising out of the Starr report and the pending impeachment inquiry, is all smiles. Clinton & the Demos were the big winners Nov. 3rd and some sources think impeachment is or will be off the table very soon. However, *don't bet your first born*...

...Why the reversal of fortunes? 1) Gingrich tried to make the off-year election into a referendum on Pres. Clinton and that strategy backfired - 59% of those surveyed in one exit poll said they didn't view this election as an *up or down vote* on Pres. Clinton; 2) the GOP was so totally preoccupied with the scandal and the upcoming impeachment inquiry that they ignored one of their key issue -- the *economy*; and 3) the Demos energized their voting base, especially Black and Latino voters. Sources believe the Demos (in selected races) also did well with swing voters and cross-over GOP moderates. Additionally, white/blue collar Demos

returned home...

...The disappointment of Nov. 3rd has many GOP insiders doing lots of searching. Conservatives, such as *Campaign for Working Families* chair Gary Bauer, wants the GOP to move further to the right, while other GOPers think the *Republican governors* have the right blend of message - which is more *pragmatic* and does not tend to create fear among voter blocs...

CALIF. OVERVIEW

...The turnout in general had been projected at 9.1 to 9.3 million (about 59-60%) by both the CA Secretary of State and by pollster Mervin Field. Both were way too high. As of 6 a.m.(11/4), the turnout was **50.9%**, but there may be as many as 800,000 absentee ballots not yet counted. That could boost turnout to 56-58%. So what happened? Apparently the Republican turnout was very low. Why? Sources say GOP voters were disappointed/turned off by their top of the ticket candidate: Dan Lungren. His campaign was a disaster and hurt the rest of the GOP ticket. FYI: there are some GOP insiders who also question the political strategy of the Calif. Republican Party. Lots of criticism aimed here too...

...Other observations about the Nov. 3rd election: 1) huge amounts of money were spent to promote or oppose initiative measures which should never have been placed on the ballot to begin with; 2) Calif. Indian tribes flexed their political muscles not only on Prop. 5, but in a number of Statewide & legislative contests; and 3) Latino voters have come of age and are now playing a critical role in elections. Unfortunately for the GOP, their loyalties right now belong to the Democrats. FYI: Lungren got only **19%** of the Latino vote...

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STATEWIDE RACES

◆ **Governor** - It's Governor-elect Gray Davis(D), as most **Calpeek** sources had predicted -- some many weeks ago. The 20-pt. win by Davis over Lungren (58% to 38%) caught some sources off guard. The tracking polls showed Davis with a good, double-digit lead --- but not 20 points! In raw numbers, it was 4.3 million votes for Davis vs. 2.8 million for Lungren. Why the big win by Davis? 1) He was totally focused; 2) Davis' tv ad campaign was superior - Lungren's tv was poor; 3) Davis was well funded; and 4) Davis' message of education, the environment and the economy hit home with voters. FYI: although we don't have the final numbers, it appears that Davis carried the Central Valley and the Inland Empire - both areas normally thought of as GOP strongholds. Give credit to the CCPOA (prison guards) for this...

◆ **U.S. Senate** - We repeat: U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D) is the luckiest politician in Calif. She beat CA Treasurer Matt Fong(R) by a 53% vs. 43% margin. Tracking polls had Boxer up by 5-8 pts. just prior to Nov. 3rd. In raw numbers, Boxer got 3.4 million votes vs. 3.1 million for Fong. Although our sources think Boxer's tv ad campaign was very good, she won for the following reasons: 1) She was better funded than Fong; 2) Boxer benefited from Davis' coattails; 3) Fong was hurt by Lungren; 4) Fong had a very weak message -- he was relying on an anti-Boxer vote without clearly defining his message. Bottomline: Fong wasn't ready for prime time...

◆ **Lt. Governor** - Demo Cruz Bustamante defeated State Sen. Tim Leslie(R) by more than 1 million votes: Bustamante 53% vs. 39% for Leslie. For the first time since Jerry Brown's first term as governor (1974), both the governor and LG will be from the same party. The LG in 1974 was Mervyn Dymally(D). FYI: Cruz is now a rising national star...

◆ **AG** - State Sen. Bill Lockyer(D) may not have much courtroom or prosecutorial experience, but he got most of the newspaper editorial support and he repeatedly bashed Chief Dep. AG Dave Stirling(R) on guns to win this race by a 52% vs. 42% margin. In raw vote, Lockyer got 3.6 million votes to Stirling's 3 million (in round numbers)...

◆ **Secretary of State** - We won't know the winner for some time, but as of mid-morning on 11/4, incumbent Bill Jones(R) held a 49,000 lead over Demo Michela Alioto. It was 46.8% vs. 46.1%. This was a case where Lungren really hurt Jones and Alioto benefited from party-line voting...

◆ **Controller** - No shock here as incumbent Kathleen Connell(D) rolled over San Mateo Co. Sup. Ruben Barrales(R) by a 61% vs. 33% margin. In raw numbers, Connell beat Barrales by nearly 2 million votes...

◆ **Treasurer** - Demo Phil Angelides finally got the brass ring. He soundly beat GOP Assemblyman Curt Pringle by a 53% vs. 40% margin. In raw numbers, Angelides got 3.7 million votes vs. 2.8 million for Pringle. This was another case of Demos voting a party-line ticket...

◆ **Insurance Commissioner** - Incumbent Chuck Quackenbush(R) is back for another 4 years as IC. That's the bad news for Demos. The good news is that he defeated Dianne Martinez(D) - who is hated by many of her Demo colleagues. Mr. Q got 49.7% vs. 44% for Martinez...

◆ **SPI** - Incumbent Delaine Eastin defeated her conservative rival Gloria Matta Tuchman by a 53% vs. 43% margin. This was a race that conservatives were looking at as a possible upset. It didn't happen...

◆ **BOE** - Incumbent Board of Equalization members Johan Klehs(D - 1st District) and Dean Andal(R - 2nd District) both won reelection. In the open 3rd district, Goper Claude Parrish won a seat and in the 4th district, acting BOE member John Chiang won with a 60.5% margin...

◆ **Calif. Supreme Court** - All four jurists won reconfirmation to the Calif. Supreme Court, despite a noisy, but very *underfunded* campaign to toss them out. Chief Justice Ron George got 75.3%; Assoc. Justice Janice Brown got 75.6%; Assoc. Justice Stanley Mosk got 70.4%; and Assoc. Justice Ming Chin got 69.1%. FYI: just a guess - but Mosk is now 85 and might just pull the plug in the near future and let Gray Davis name a new jurist for the State's high court...

THE INITIATIVE WARS

■ **Prop. 5** - Don't know the final amount spent *for* and *against* this statute initiative to permit Indians to have slots at their tribal card clubs, but sources think it will run past \$100 million. This initiative won very big: **62.6% YES vs. 37.4% NO**. Many **Calpeek** sources rate the YES on 5 campaign as being the best run initiative campaign in this general election cycle. What's next? Sources say a lawsuit by the NO side is in the immediate future. But what if Gov.-elect Gray Davis cuts a better deal than Gov. Wilson's Pala Compact? Would the tribes go for it?, thus not even challenging a legal battle over Prop. 5???

■ **Prop. 9** - Utility initiative. It got smashed: **73.5% NO vs. 26.5% YES**. True, the NO side spent \$40 million to crush this initiative and the YES side had no money. Part of the problem with this initiative was the fact that the proponents of Prop. 9 had been at the table in Sacto when AB 1890 (utility deregulation) was being debated. There was give & take on both side. If at any time the consumer groups thought they were being screwed, they should have walked away at that time and raised a public stink. But they didn't --- not until after \$6 billion in bonds were sold...

■ **Prop. 1-A** - \$9.2 school bond measure. It didn't get all that much attention, but was backed by most all of the major newspapers. It won by a healthy **62.5% YES** vote...

■ **Prop. 8** - Gov. Wilson's educational reform initiative. Wilson had very little money in his warchest and with more than \$6 million in the NO on 8 warchest, Prop. 8 went down, getting only **36.8%**. Had Wilson been smart, he would never have put this measure on the ballot. Not a good way to say good-bye...

■ **Prop. 10** - Tobacco tax. In percentages, the YES side was at **50.2% vs. 49.8%** for the NO side. Less than 15,000 votes separated the two sides as **Calpeek** went to press. This initiative could go either way...

■ **Prop. 4** - Animal traps. This is an initiative that could have been defeated, but for whatever reason the NO side wasn't able to raise the kind of money necessary to go up on tv. YES won: **57.5%...**

■ **Prop. 3** - Presidential primaries. All the work done by SOS Bill Jones(R) and Sen. Jim Costa(D) to move CA's Presidential primary to the first week in March of 2000 is flushed down the john because voters rejected Prop. 3 by a margin of **54% NO to 46% YES**. GOP & Demo party rules generally ban open primary elections for party delegates to a presidential nominating convention. If something isn't done, Calif.'s early March primary will be nothing but a presidential *straw poll*...

U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS

...Prior to the Nov. 3rd election, Republicans held a 228 to 206 majority in the U.S. House. With the Demos winning 5 seats, the margin is now **223 to 211** with 1 independent. To say that some GOP insiders want Speaker Newt Gingrich's head (or Majority Leader Dick Armey's) is an understatement. In Calif., the GOP picked up a net gain of 1 seat. The Calif. delegation now has a 28(D) vs. 24(R) lineup. As predicted, CA Sen. Mike Thompson(D) picked up the **1st CD**; Doug Ose(R) won Vic Fazio's **3rd CD** and Assemblyman Steve Kuykendall(R) won Jane Harman's **36th CD** over Janice Hahn(D) by a 3,200 vote margin. Those were the only changes...

☒ **24th CD** - Freshman Brad Sherman(D) demolished GOP *deep pocketed* businessman Randy Hoffman by 31,000 votes (pocket combs)...

☒ **10th CD** - Freshman Ellen Tauscher(D) creamed Charles Ball(R) by 20,738 --- despite a *phony letter* mailed to Demo voters supposedly from U.S. Rep. George Miller(D) - dumping on Tauscher...

☒ **22nd CD** - Freshman Lois Capps(D) was up by more than 19,000 votes over Tom Bordonaro(R), with only 77% precincts counted...

☒ **27th CD** - Freshman James Rogan(R), who is on the House Judiciary Cmt., narrowly won reelection by 4,797 votes over former SAG president Barry Gordon(D). Had Gordon been better funded, he might have pulled an upset. If Demo Assemblyman Jack Scott of Pasadena should run here in 2000, Rogan could be in trouble...

☒ **46th CD** - Freshman Loretta Sanchez(D) really mashed Bob Dornan(R) in their highly publicized and

costly rematch. Sanchez got **56.3%** to Bob Dornan's **39.4%**. And in raw numbers, Sanchez beat B-1 Bob by **12,235** votes - not like the narrow 972-vote win in '96. But what made matters worse for Orange Co. GOPers, Dornan hurt the rest of the ticket in the Santa Ana, Garden Grove area...

...Other incumbents under siege also won, including George Brown(D-42) **55%**; and Brian Bilbray(R-49) **49%** vs. **46.4%** over Demo Councilwoman Chris Kehoe of San Diego...

LEGISLATIVE RACES

● **Calif. State Senate** - Prior to the election, Demos held a 23 to 16 advantage in the upper house, with 1 independent (Kopp - SF). The battle for control of the State Senate was centered on 3 OPEN seats held by Demos: **2nd SD**, **6th SD** and **32nd SD**. The Demos held all three seats and picked up Kopp's **8th SD**. But the big surprise was the loss of Sen. Rob Hurtt(R- 34th SD). Hurtt was caught in the *Dornan masher-basher*. Demo attorney Joe Dunn was the beneficiary of the huge GOTV effort in Orange Co. and defeated Hurtt by a **51.3%** vs. **48.7%** margin. In raw numbers, Dunn beat Hurtt by 2,600 votes, but there are A/B yet to be counted. But assuming Dunn holds on, the Demos will have a **25 to 15** advantage in the Calif. State Senate...

● **Calif. State Assembly** - Going into the election the Demos held a 43 to 37 advantage. The Demo spin was that they just wanted to hold their majority. However, the GOP Assembly Caucus was underfunded in this cycle and Demos enjoyed a **4-to-1** advantage in money...

...**Demos Seats Under Siege** - There were 7 Demo seats that were under attack: **31st AD** (open) and the **53rd** (open); Scott(**44th AD**); Wildman(**43rd AD**); Havice(**56th AD**); Davis(**76th AD**) and Wayne(**78th AD**). With a week to go before Nov. 3rd, sources say all but the Havice seat were considered *safe*. As it turned out, the Demos held all 7 seats...

...**GOP Seats Under Siege** - There were 6 GOP seats under attack in this cycle: **35th AD**(open), **61st AD** (open) and **54th AD**(open); and Morrissey(**69th AD**), Prenter(**30th AD**) and Frusetta(**28th AD**). Of these 6 GOP seats - Frusetta was the only survivor. Like Hurtt

in the 34th SD, Morrissey in the 69th AD was caught in the Dornan *masher-basher* and lost a rematch with Demo Lou Correa by just under 4,000 votes. And Bob Prenter(R) originally from So. Calif., got beat by Dean Florez(D) in the 30th AD, by a margin of **54.9%** to **45.1%**. In raw numbers, Florez won by more than 5,600 votes...

...The line up in the Assembly will be **48 (D)** and **32(R)**. FYI: GOP Leader Bill Leonard resigned on 11/4...

LOCAL CONTESTS

● **San Diego** - Two important ballot measures both won voter approval: Measure MM, a \$1.5 billion school bond measure was approved by a **78%** margin (2/3rds needed); and Prop. C (city of San Diego) to build a new \$411 million baseball stadium for the *Padres* was approved by a **59.5%** YES vote...

● **Key Mayors' Races** - In San Jose, Calif.'s 3rd largest city, former Santa Clara Co. Sup. Ron Gonzales got **51.4%** vs. **48.6%** to defeat Councilwoman Pat Dando. In raw numbers, Gonzales won by about 5,000 votes...In Anaheim, incumbent Mayor Tom Daly defeated Councilman Bob Zemel by a **55%** vs. **45%** margin...And in Inglewood, incumbent Mayor Roosevelt Dorn defeated former Assemblyman Curtis Tucker Jr. with **64.8%** of the vote...

● **L.A. County & City** - In the County, Measure "A" to ban the use of local sales tax for the Metrorail subway won with **78%**. A big win for County Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky. In the City, both the \$178 million library bond ("DD") and the \$47 million zoo upgrade bond ("CC") won with big margins: **71.84%** and **79.1%** respectively. Measures "EE" and "JJ" didn't get the required 2/3rds vote. More election returns next week. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: CALIF. ELECTION POST-MORTEM. Pepperdine Univ. & the Unruh Inst. of Politics at USC will present an election post-mortem, 7-10 p.m., Nov. 12, Mark Taper Hall of Humanities, #202, at USC in L.A. Numerous consultants, pollsters and the news media will participate. For info, contact Dr. Stan Moore (310)456-4377. Stay tuned...